

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 IO-10 CIAE-00

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USDA:JOANNE HALLQUIST

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: MEETING OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUP ON BANANAS

- IN THE IVORY COAST

1. EMBOFF RESPONSE WHICH INDICATES SKEPTICISM ABOUT
WORKABILITY OF A BANANA AGREEMENT IS CORRECT.

2. WHILE SOME UPEB COUNTRIES MAY ATTEMPT TO USE THIS
FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF AN INTERNATIONAL BANANA AGREEMENT,
THE FAO SECRETARIAT, IN PAPERS PREPARED FOR THE CONFERENCE,
CONCLUDES THAT AN INTERNATIONAL BANANA AGREEMENT IS NOT
FEASIBLE. SOME LATIN AMERICAN PRODUCER COUNTRIES ARE
NEVERTHELESS EXPECTED TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF SUCH AN
AGREEMENT AND MAKE IT A MAJOR POINT OF DISCUSSION. WE

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FEEL BANANAS, BEING HIGHLY PERISHABLE, DO NOT LEND THEM-
SELVES TO A COMMODITY AGREEMENT; HOWEVER, WE ARE PREPARED
TO LISTEN TO PRODUCER IDEAS. THE U.S. CONTINUES TO
EXAMINE COMMODITY AGREEMENTS ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

3. THE USG VIEW IS THAT TRADE BARRIERS TO BANANAS ARE THE PRIME PROBLEM FACING THE INDUSTRY.

4. WE OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT BY BANANA PRODUCERS TO SINGLE OUT THE U.S. MARKET AND ATTEMPT TO REGULATE BANANA SHIP-

MENTS THROUGH THE CONTROL OF EXPORT LEVELS. WHAT CORDERO AND QUIROS MEAN BY QUOTE OVERFLOW UNQUOTE OF SALES TO U.S. MARKET IS UNCLEAR. BANANA ARRIVALS FLUCTUATE WITH SEASONAL PRODUCTION OF THE FRUIT AND U.S. CONSUMPTION PATTERNS. THE EFFECTS OF COMPETITION FROM OTHER FRESH FRUITS ALSO PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT ROLE.

5. INDUSTRY ADVISORS ARE ON THE U.S. DELEGATION, WHICH WILL BE HEADED BY MR. FLOYD HEDLUND, USDA/AMS, WITH MR. PAUL PILKAUSKAS, EB/TRP, AND MR. JOHN FERRITER, USEMB ABIDJAN, AS ALTERNATE DELEGATES.

6. FYI U.S. BANANA IMPORTS AVERAGED 2,105,288 BOXES PER WEEK DURING 1974. END FYI. KISSINGER

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